

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING / SPECIAL VOTING MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2026
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mayor Bartels called to order the Special Meeting of Latrobe City council at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor Bartels asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bartels asked all for a moment of silence.

Secretary to Council read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Ralph Jenko – present

Dawn Vavick – present

Sam Leach – present

Lenor Rivera – present

Eric Hauser – present

Ann Amatucci - present

Mayor Eric Bartels – present

Also, present were the following: Sue Trout, City Manager; Lee Demosky, Solicitor; John Brasile, Fire Chief; Scott Wajdic, Public Works Director; Melanie McGregor, Assistant Public Works Director, Andy Matheny and Josh Mayer, Code/Zoning Officers.

CITIZENS' REQUEST (related to agenda)

None.

MOTION

Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02 amending Chapter 256-16 of the City Code adding section (F) designating commercial parking spaces in residential zones for Permit Parking. This ordinance amends the permit parking ordinance for permits reserved at residential parcels for business purposes. Ms. Rivera made the motion seconded by Mr. Hauser. This motion was a roll call vote 7-0.

Mrs. Trout explained this was the initiative brought forth when Mr. Urbanik from SecondHalf Coach addressed council in December of 2025 with their parking concerns, and the ordinance adopting would assist them in their efforts for their retail business.

MOTION

Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-03 which amends Chapter 51-65, Article VI of the City of Latrobe Code regarding blighted property tax abatement for the Local Economic Tax Revitalization Assistance (LERTA) program. The LERTA will include tax abatement to fight blight through financial incentives for remediation and elimination of blight. Mr. Jenko made the motion seconded by Ms. Vavick. This motion was a roll call vote 7-0.

Mr. Demosky explained that LERTA will include tax abatement to fight blight through financial incentives for remediation and elimination of blight and to supplement, Mr. Demosky will adopt the comments he made before the previous public hearings regarding this. Mr. Demosky noted that the Westmoreland County Commissioners voted to approve LERTA at their February 12th, 2026, public meeting with an effective date of March 1st, 2026. There's a standard definitions section with eligible

areas, that has the procedure for application by property owners to apply for the abatement. The exemption schedule is listed there, year one through ten, where the property owner retains 25 % of the tax and 75 % is donated to the Latrobe Blight Fund. There's also details regarding a list of matters that would occur where a property owner would be terminated from the program, such as not paying real estate taxes, deficiencies in the property in violation of our code enforcement ordinances, failure to make payments for sanitary and storm water fees, if the property is classified as a nuisance, and so forth. So, once the property owner gets the exemption, they must take responsibility to maintain the property for the 10-year period of the exemption. This program involves the City of Latrobe and the Westmoreland County taxes, and with the preamble, we invite the Greater Latrobe School District to join us in this program to try to get blighted properties back on the books as good properties for the community.

Mr. Jenko asked if this exemption is only the difference in the assessed value and Mr. Demosky said correct.

Mayor Bartels asked if this was automatic tax break and Mr. Demosky said you have to apply for this; it's a very detailed process.

MOTION

Motion to approve a subdivision at 2416/2418 Ligonier Street for Sara Connelly. This subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Hauser made the motion seconded by Mrs. Amatucci. This motion was a roll call vote 7-0.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

The Special Meeting of the council adjourned at 6:43 P.M. with a motion from Mrs. Amatucci seconded by Mr. Leach. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janina Hall

Janina Hall, Council Secretary